



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : St. Goar et al.
Serial No. : 10/635,776
Filed : August 5, 2003
Title : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CARDIAC VALVE REPAIR

Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : Thomas C. Barrett
Conf. No. : 1704

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

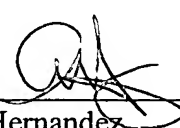
In the office action mailed June 16, 2006, the examiner asserted that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species. The examiner requested that applicants "select one embodiment of catheter, e.g., where in the expansion element is a balloon, one embodiment of a fastener, and one embodiment of a supporting structure in combination, e.g., balloon expandable catheter with a staple and a structure to shorten the annulus."

In response to the examiner's request, applicants select the embodiment that corresponds to claim 43. Applicant asserts that at least claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14-18, 39, 41-42, 44, 45, and 49 are readable on the embodiment of claim 43.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 16, 2006


Fred C. Hernandez
Reg. No. 41,832

PTO Customer No.: 20985
Fish & Richardson P.C.
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5625
Facsimile: (202) 626-7796
Email: fhernandez@fr.com
10656816.doc

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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